

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 171233Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1741

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T DOHA 0863

EXDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, QA, US, KU, TC, BA

SUBJ: PROBLEM OF LOWER GULF STATES SEEKING EXPANDED MILITARY
RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.

REF: DOHA 0862

1. REFTTEL REPORTS QATARI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON F-5 AIR-
CRAFT; THIS IS THE GOQ'S FIRST GESTURE IN DIRECTION OF SEEKING
A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.

2. I AM AWARE THAT NEIGHBORING LOWER GULF COUNTRIES HAVE RECENT-
LY SOUGHT EXPANDED MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS OF VARIOUS KINDS WITH
USG. TO THESE WE SHOULD NOW ADD POSSIBILITY THAT QATARIS ARE
THINKING ALONG SIMILAR LINES. A COMMON DENOMINATION IS FURTHER
LOOSENING OF UMBILICAL CORD TO UK IN MILITARY AREA. I WOULD
SUGGEST THAT WE LOOK ON THESE REQUESTS FROM LOWER GULF STATES IN
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REGIONAL CONTEXT TO INCLUDE WELL-ESTABLISHED MILITARY SUPPLY,

TRAINING AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WITH IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.
GIVEN OUR DECLARED SUPPORT FOR SELF-HELP REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THIS AREA, PERHAPS WE CAN VEST DEAL WITH THESE REQUESTS ON A COORDINATED REGION-WIDE BASIS, DRAWING IN SAUDIS AND IRANAIANS. I REALIZE THAT SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD BE PLAGUED BY PARTICULAR DEMANDS ON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, INTER-STATE RIVALRIES, ONE-UPSMAN PRESTIGE FACTORS, AND AS YET UNDEVELOPED REGIONAL SECURITY STRUCTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, A U.S. POLICY INITIATIVE TO COORDINATE U.S. MILITARY SALES, TRAINING, FACILITY AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS ON A GULF-WIDE BASIS COULD CATALYZE MOVES IN AREA TOWARD REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, POSSIBLY REDUCE OR RATIONALIZE MAGNITUDE OF ARMS SALES REQUESTS SOLIDIFY OUR BILATERAL TIES TO LOWER GULF STATES, AND CONTRIBUTE TO U.S. GOAL OF STABILITY IN THIS VITAL REGION. ASPECTS OF SUCH AN APPROACH COULD ALSO BE PERSUASIVE TO CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS WHO ALLEGE THAT WE HAVE NO ARMS POLICY SIN THIS AREA SAVE TO SEEL ALL THAT OUR CLIENTS CAN AFFORD. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF DEPT AND ADDRESSEES.
PAGANELLI

SECRET

NNN

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